National Transportation Safety Board Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 11/25/2003

ANC03LA071 File No. 14137	07/09/2003	Kotzebue, AK	Aircraft Reg No. N410GV		ר	Fime (Local): 09:00 ADT
Engine Make/Model: Aircraft Damage Number of Engines: Operating Certificate(s): Name of Carrier: Type of Flight Operation: Reg. Flight Conducted Under:		nd Air Taxi ES INC r/Cargo	Crew Pass	Fatal 0 0 Condition	Serious 1 0	Minor/None 1 1
Destination: Point Hope, AK Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip			Weather Info Src: Pilot Basic Weather: Visual Conditions Lowest Ceiling: None Visibility: 10.00 SM Wind Dir/Speed: Temperature (°C): 8 Obstr to Vision: None Precipitation: None			
Pilot-in-Command Age	: 21			Flight Ti	me (Hours)	
Certificate(s)/Rating(s) Flight Instructor; Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land Instrument Ratings Airplane			Total All Aircraft: 800 Last 90 Days: 165 Total Make/Model: 350 Total Instrument Time: 55			

The operator reported that the captain left the cockpit while in cruise flight to inspect the cargo. While he was inspecting the cargo, the airplane encountered unforecast turbulence, and the captain fell, breaking his ankle. The first officer returned the airplane to the departure airport. The airplane was not damaged.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

ANC03LA071

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows. The airplane encountered unforecast turbulence, which resulted in serious injury to the pilot.